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Among the painters contributing are William Clusman, Wilson H. Irvine, Mrs. E. R. Colburn and C. L. McKenney. A high standard was upheld.

**THE FRIENDS
OF AMERICAN
ART** The "Friends of American Art," a society formed to promote the development of Amer-

ican Art by the purchase of works by American artists, to be presented to the Art Institute of Chicago, has, as an initial step, made certain purchases from the annual Exhibition of Oil Paintings and Sculpture, reviewed by Miss McCauley in the November number of ART AND PROGRESS. The membership of this society is now 151 and it is steadily increasing. The purchasing fund amounts to about \$30,000 a year. This effort to promote American art and enrich the galleries of the Art Institute is attracting much attention. The following pictures are among those recently purchased by the Society and accepted by the Institute for its permanent collection. "The Idlers," by Karl Anderson, awarded a prize at the last Carnegie Institute Exhibition; "Ice-bound," by Willard L. Metcalf, reproduced in the November number of ART AND PROGRESS; "Hills of Byram," by Daniel Garber; "A Rainy Day," by Frank W. Benson; "Christmas Eve," by H. Van der Weyden; "Apple Blossoms," by Louis Betts; "The Winter Sun," by Gardner Symons; and "Sunlight," by John W. Alexander.

**ART IN
CONNECTICUT** The Connecticut Academy of the Fine Arts has just held its first exhibition which consisted of seventy-seven paintings and nine works in sculpture. These were contributed chiefly by resident artists though the exhibition was open to all. Among the painters represented were Charles Noël Flagg, John F. Weir, Lydia Field Emmet, Carleton Wiggins, William Gedney Bunce, and Clark G. Voorhees; and among the sculptors Solon Borglum and John Flanagan. Mr. Flagg, the secre-

tary of the Academy, said, in an article in the *Hartford Daily Courant*: "What we need and hope to have is an adequate place where living artists, and especially young artists, may have a chance to submit their productions under favorable conditions to the public." By and by this Academy may vie with those of earlier establishment preaching beyond the boundaries of its special province, but for the present it does well to restrict and concentrate its activities. The character of the Academy's first exhibition is said to have given much promise.

**SAFEGUARDING
NATURAL
BEAUTY** Out in Colorado there was, and still is, near one of the towns a canon wherein a beautiful little waterfall has created a miniature paradise, a grove of trees and flowers being not only brought into life but sustained by the moisture of its spray. Water, however, means power, and a commercial company determined to use the water of this stream above the falls, regardless of the fact that by so doing they would completely despoil the loveliness of this place. The town brought suit against the company and won the suit; the United States Circuit Court, before which the case came to trial, declaring in effect that beauty is a material asset of positive value, to be guarded and protected like other property, that the waters of this stream were already "appropriated for a beneficial use," giving pleasure to many. Such a decision would certainly indicate a broadening viewpoint and an increasing appreciation of the worth of those things which have no actual money value and yet are priceless. It should, moreover, as the *Outlook* has commented, reinforce the effort to preserve beauty throughout the country.

**THE
IMPROVEMENT
OF FORT WAYNE** Fort Wayne, Indiana, had a "Civic Revival" some months ago and as a result the Fort Wayne Civic Improvement Association has sought the advice of Mr. Charles

Mulford Robinson in regard to future action. This advice in the form of a report has just been printed in a pamphlet, the text of which is accompanied by abundant and telling illustrations. Both the report and the photographs would certainly indicate the need of improvement in Fort Wayne, for this city is apparently sadly afflicted with street advertising signs, poles, wires, and other objects of unsightliness. Curiously enough, furthermore, its chief vista, or the vistas to its chief monuments, such as the dome of its handsome court house, wherein it will be remembered are some of the most notable mural paintings produced in America, and the spire of its Cathedral, are through alleys. Mr. Robinson recommends the establishment of civic center, the broadening of certain streets, the abolishment of sidewalk signs and the restriction of advertising signs in general, as well as many other practical minor improvements conduced to an ultimate harmonious and artistic general aspect. That there is good material to work with and exceptional opportunity is also patent. Fort Wayne has many natural assets. In concluding his report Mr. Robinson upholds Kansas City as a stimulating example, both as regards spirit and accomplishment. The Business Men's Club of that city declared some time ago their belief that "every time we improve our city we help to increase its population, and therefore as a business proposition the judicious expenditure of three or four million dollars for improvements would be a splendid investment," and they have proved it.

NEWS ITEMS

Twenty-six pictures aggregating \$2,300 in value were sold in the New York Water Color Club's recent annual exhibition. This is an advance over past years and is considered a good record. Three hundred and sixty-seven works were included in the catalogue about fifty per cent of which were contributed by women painters.

Mr. C. Y. Turner has recently completed a decorative painting for the Mahoning County Court House at Youngstown, Ohio. This painting represents "The First Trial by Law in Mahoning County," and was exhibited in the American Fine Arts Building for two days the latter part of November.

A mural painting by Mr. Robert Reid has been placed in the Assembly Hall of the Central High School of Springfield, Mass., where it was unveiled last month with ceremony. It was the gift of the alumni and is a lunette setting forth allegorically "The Light of Education."

Pittsburgh is to have an art school, the outgrowth of classes at the Carnegie Technical Institute. Special studios and equipment will be provided in the new building which the Institute is soon to build. The school will be under the direction of Mr. A. W. Sparks, instructor in art at the Institute.

The Massachusetts State Federation of Women's Clubs held an Art Conference in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, on December 1st, at which Mr. Frederick L. Burnham, State Supervisor of Drawing and Manual Training, spoke on "The Value of Art Study in the Life of the Pupil," and Mr. Morris Carter, Librarian, told of the resources of the Library and Photograph Department of the Museum.

Jules Guerin has painted six enormous "topographical landscapes" as mural decorations for the new Pennsylvania Railroad Station in New York. These canvases measure 25 by 70 feet and were purposed to give the effect of broad stretches of country viewed from a high altitude. They represent chiefly the country traversed by the Pennsylvania Railroad.

The Metropolitan Museum has recently purchased a painting by Paul Veronese, "Mars and Venus Bound," which was successively included in Queen Christiana of Sweden's, the Duke